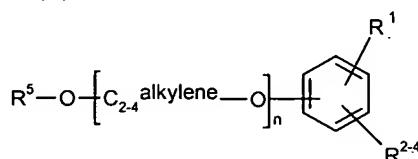


IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original): A monomer which comprises a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit wherein the protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain contains from 2 to 10 C₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy groups and wherein the hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain is protected with an acid labile protecting group.

2. (original): A monomer of formula (1)



wherein

R¹ is an optionally substituted ethylene group;

R²⁻⁴ are independently hydrogen, hydrocarbyl, halogen, or hydrocarbyloxy;

R⁵ is an acid labile protecting group; and

n is 2 to 10.

3. (original): A monomer according to Claim 2 wherein R¹ is a CH=CH₂, CH=CHCH₃, or C(CH₃)=CH₂ group.

4. (original): A monomer according to any of Claims 2 or 3 wherein [-C₂₋₄alkylene-O-]_n is [-CH₂CH₂O-]_n, [-CH₂CH(CH₃)O-]_n, [-CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂O-]_n or [-CH₂CH(C₂H₅)O-]_n

5. (currently amended): A monomer according to ~~any of Claims 2, 3 or 4~~ Claim 2 wherein R²⁻⁴ are hydrogen.

6. (currently amended): A monomer according to ~~any proceeding claim~~ Claim 1 or 2 wherein the acid labile protecting group is a poly-aryl methane protecting group.

7. (currently amended): A monomer according to ~~any proceeding claim~~ Claim 1 or 2 wherein R⁵ is a poly-aryl methane protecting group of formula:



wherein:

R⁶ is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl or optionally substituted aryl group; and R⁷ and R⁸ are each independently optionally substituted aryl groups, or R⁷ & R⁸ are optionally substituted aryl groups which may be linked to form an optionally substituted ring

8. (currently amended): A monomer according to ~~any proceeding claim~~ Claim 1 wherein the acid labile protecting group is an optionally substituted trityl group.

9. (original): A process for the preparation of a polymer support comprising polymerisation of a monomer comprising a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit wherein the protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain contains from 2 to 10 C₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy groups and wherein the hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain is protected with an acid labile group, under conditions to produce cross-linking.

10. (original): A process according to Claim 9 wherein the monomer comprising a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit is copolymerised in the presence of one or more one or more monomers selected from styrenes, for example styrene, hydroxystyrene, methoxystyrene, methylstyrene, hydroxymethylstyrene and chloromethylstyrene, esters of acrylic acid and esters of (meth)acrylic acid, for example methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate and hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, and acrylamides, for example N-methyl acrylamide and N-methylol (meth)acrylamide.

11. (original): A process according to Claim 9 wherein the monomer comprising a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit is copolymerised in the presence of one or more cross linking monomers, and one or more monomers selected from styrenes, esters of acrylic acid and esters of (meth)acrylic acid, or acrylamides.

12. (original): A process according to Claim 9 wherein the monomer comprising a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit is copolymerised in the presence of divinyl benzene, and styrene.

13. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any one of Claims 9 to 12~~ Claim 9 wherein the monomer comprising a protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain attached to a polymerisable unit is a monomer according to ~~any one of Claim 1 to 8~~ Claim 2.

14. (original): A polymer support which comprises protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chains attached to a cross-linked polymer wherein the protected hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chain contains from 2 to 10 C₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy groups and wherein the hydroxypolyC₂₋₄ alkyleneoxy chains are protected with an acid labile group.

15. (original): A polymer support according to Claim 14 wherein the acid labile protecting group is a poly-aryl methane protecting group.

16. (original): A polymer support according to Claim 15 wherein the acid labile group is an optionally substituted trityl group.

17. (currently amended): A polymer support obtainable by the process of ~~any one of Claims 9 to 13~~ Claim 9.

18. (currently amended): Use of a polymer support according to ~~any one of Claims 14 to 17~~ Claim 14 in solid phase organic synthesis.